

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT VIEW ON PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs fresh from his waits and welcomes in the Soviet Union. Can he advise if it is the view of the Canadian government that representatives of the Palestinian people should participate in the Middle East peace conference, a view held, *inter alia*, by Mr. Gromyko and the Canadian Council of Churches?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, when Mr. Gromyko said to me it was the view of the Soviet government that there should be some representation from the Palestinian people, I said that the Canadian government was generally in sympathy with this point of view.

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[Translation]

FOOD PRICES

INCREASE IN RETAIL PRICES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Is he aware of the 10 per cent increase in the retail price of at least 768 food products and, if so, what will he do to correct such a situation? It is proper to point out that such an increase took place during the week of November 19, 1973.

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am taking this question as notice and shall reply to it later.

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[English]

FINANCE

MEETING OF MINISTERS IN FRANCE THIS PAST WEEKEND—INQUIRY AS TO INVITATION TO CANADA TO PARTICIPATE

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister inform the House whether Canada was asked to take part in a meeting of finance ministers in France this past weekend, and does he know if the deteriorating economic situation and continuing fall of the stock market was discussed?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker, Canada was not invited to participate in that meeting.

[Mr. O'Connor.]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED NORTH VANCOUVER SITE FOR NEW PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT CENTRE—IN-DEPTH REVIEW

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that employees of the Atmospheric Environment Service at Vancouver have protested against the feasibility of moving that service to the proposed new Pacific Environment Centre in North Vancouver and because this site was chosen based on a proposed third crossing of Burrard Inlet which is now in doubt, can the minister advise when the new in-depth study, which was referred to in answers to questions on July 25 that appear in *Hansard*, will take place, reviewing the site selection?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is incorrect in assuming that the site in North Vancouver was chosen conditional upon the construction of another crossing over Vancouver Harbour. In answer to the second part of his question, we hope that the in-depth study will be made public in a month or so.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Can the minister assure the House that no final decision will be taken without hearing the views of the employees and municipal planning officials?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the views of the employees have already been sought.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

ALLEGED INCREASE IN EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO UNITED STATES THROUGH EASTERN CANADA CUSTOMS POINTS

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Have his officials informed him that petroleum products are going across customs points in eastern Canada into the United States at an unprecedented rate in the past few days and, if not, will the minister make an inquiry and report to the House immediately?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I do not suppose the rate would be the problem. The problem would be whether or not there are export permits for the shipments being made. Customs officials have instructions, and have had for some time, to require permits for petroleum exports. I am not aware of any shipments crossing from Canada to the United States without such permits.